

# Media Advisory

Unified Command  
Buzzard's Bay Oil Spill

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## **Coast Guard continues to oversee clean up efforts in Buzzard's Bay**

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - The Coast Guard, private contractors, and federal, state, and local agencies continue to assess the impact of an oil spill from a spill from a barge being towed through Buzzard's Bay en route to Sandwich, Mass., from Philadelphia on Sunday.

A dive survey and soundings of the barge's holding tanks revealed a 12-foot tear in the bottom of the number 2 starboard tank. An estimated 14,700 gallons of oil was spilled into the Bay.

The leak has been stopped. No additional oil is leaking from the barge. Containment boom has been placed around the vessel to mitigate the possibility of any further release. A safety zone has been put into place to minimize the effects of passing traffic on the barge.

Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod conducted an over flight this afternoon to assess the trajectory of the oil spills. Shoreline impact in the vicinity of Barney's Joy Beach in Dartmouth, Mass., was reported. Four dead loons and one dead duck were discovered, and three other oiled loons have been recovered and taken to Buttonwood Park Zoo in New Bedford, Mass., for treatment. Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife are assessing the need for additional personnel.

The Coast Guard Cutter Ida Lewis, homeported in Newport, R.I., is on scene to deploy the Vessel of Opportunity Skimming System, though current weather conditions are prohibiting operations. The cutter will remain on scene as long as necessary. The owner of the barge, Bouchard Transportation System, has contracted Marine Spill Response Corporation and Clean Harbors Environmental Services to minimize environmental impact and conduct clean-up activities.

The Coast Guard, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection are monitoring the response and clean up of the oil with personnel, boats, and aircraft. An Incident Command Post has been established at Otis Air National Guard Base on Cape Cod.

Additional partners assisting are the Coast Guard Atlantic Strike Team, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, and the Massachusetts Environmental Police.

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A full scale Coast Guard investigation is being conducted. The pilot of the tug that was towing the barge is licensed by the Coast Guard to navigate in Buzzard's Bay.

The Coast Guard has initiated a site safety plan to ensure that the recovery effort is safe for the environment and all personnel involved.

The Commonwealth's Division of Marine Fisheries has closed all shellfish areas located within the area from Nye's Neck in Falmouth to Angelica Point in Marion to the Massachusetts/Rhode Island line.

Bouchard Transportation has established a hotline for anyone with claims question. That number is 1(800) 995-4045.

Volunteers seeking to help attend to affected wildlife should contact (508) 999-6363.

Press inquiries may be directed to the Joint Information Center at (508) 968-6440.

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